

The FY 06 Labor-HHS-Education Bill Hurts Kids

The bill, produced pursuant to the GOP's austere budget resolution, does the following:

- ***Provides the smallest increase for education in a decade.*** The LHHS bill includes \$56.7 billion for Department of Education discretionary programs, a \$118 million (0.2 percent) increase over the current level – essentially a freeze level. Furthermore, ***the bill eliminates 24 education programs funded at \$526 million in 2005.*** The largest of the terminated programs is Comprehensive School Reform (the bill provides a small amount, \$10 million, to close out national activities). The bill also eliminates drop out prevention activities, parent assistance centers, arts education, K-12 foreign language instruction, Ready To Learn, Ready To Teach, and community technology centers.
- ***Cuts No Child Left Behind below the current level.*** The LHHS bill *cuts* NCLB funding by \$806 million (3.3 percent) below the current level. Next year, school districts must achieve increasingly rigorous NCLB academic standards, administer annual reading and math tests to 3rd through 8th graders, and meet new standards for highly-qualified teachers. Yet funding for all NCLB programs will fall \$13.2 billion below its FY 2006 authorization and the cumulative shortfall since enactment of NCLB will exceed \$40 billion under the LHHS bill. ***The bill cuts the Administration's \$603 million proposed increase of Title 1 by 83 percent.*** It provides only a \$100 million (0.8 percent) increase for Title 1 grants to help low-income children improve their reading and math skills. In total, ***Title 1 funding is \$9.9 billion below NCLB's funding promise for FY 2006.*** As a result, academic help and hope would be denied to 3.1 million low-income children.

Under this Republican bill, Maine will receive \$56 million less than promised by NCLB and \$67 million less than promised by IDEA.

- ***The federal share of IDEA special education costs will drop from 18.6 percent in 2005 to 18.1 percent in 2006.*** The LHHS bill provides only a \$150 million (1.4 percent) increase for IDEA Part B grants for 6.9 million disabled children. In total, IDEA Part B ***funding is \$3.9 billion below the amount promised in the IDEA Improvement Act of 2004*** to put special education funding on a structured path to full funding over 5 years.
- ***Cuts Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in half.*** The bill reduces funding for the CSBG from \$637 million in FY 2005 to \$320 million in FY 2006. CSBG funds are used by almost 1,100 local agencies operating in 96 percent of the counties in the U.S. to provide basic services to more than 13 million people in 6 million low-income families, many of whom have few other places to turn for assistance. The specific services provided with grant funds are determined by the local agencies, based on local needs. Examples include job training and placement, job creation and economic development, emergency assistance with

food and other needs, programs for youth and senior citizens, weatherization and other energy assistance, parenting education, adult literacy, and child care.

- Cuts the ***Maternal and Child Health Block Grant*** by \$24 million or 3 percent, bringing it about 20 percent below its FY 2002 level in terms of real per-capita purchasing power. The program helps states provide prenatal care for mothers and preventive health services and medical treatment for children lacking other sources of health care, including children with disabilities and other special needs. The bill makes a \$5 million (5 percent) cut in the ***Healthy Start initiative***, which makes targeted grants to improve prenatal and infant care in areas with high infant mortality rates. This funding level will allow renewal or replacement of only about half the 12 Healthy Start grants up for re-competition in FY 2006.
- ***Fails to raise maximum Pell Grant by \$100 as promised.*** Although Republicans promised low-income students a \$100 increase in the maximum Pell Grant in the 2006 Budget Resolution, the LHHS bill provides only a \$50 increase, bringing the maximum to \$4,100. The increase would offset only 2 percent of the \$2,300 increase in the cost of a 4-year public college since 2001. Under the bill, the share of typical college costs paid by Pell Grants would drop to a new low of about 32 percent in 2006. Thirty years ago, Pell Grants paid for 72 percent of 4-year public college costs. In addition, the LHHS bill freezes Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants and College Work Study.
- Cuts the President's ***Community College Initiative*** by 50 percent, to \$125 million in FY 06. It also rescinds \$125 million from the \$250 million provided in the FY 05 bill.
- Freezes appropriations for the ***Child Care Block Grant*** at the FY 2005 level of \$2.083 billion, marking the fourth year in a row in which this program has been either frozen or cut. The Block Grant is used by states to assist with child care expenses for low-income families where parents are working or in school. Since FY 2002, the inflation-adjusted per-capita purchasing power of this grant has decreased by about 13 percent.
- ***Freezes after school center funds for the 4th year in a row*** at about \$1 billion. About 14 million kids are unsupervised in the hours after school each day. Only 38 percent of all applications for after school assistance could be funded in 2004. Under the bill, 1.7 million fewer needy children would benefit from the enrichment activities provided in these centers than promised in NCLB.
- Cuts ***Youth Training Grants*** by \$36 million (3.7 percent) below the current level, serving 12,000 fewer youth than 2005.
- Cuts ***Job Corps*** by \$9.8 million below the current level.

- Eliminates *ten health professions training programs*, including *10 of 12 Title VII Health Professions Training Programs*. The cut is \$252 million. Activities being terminated include programs designed to encourage new medical and dental school graduates to choose primary care specialties and to practice in rural and urban underserved areas. Dental and primary care practitioners are critically needed in rural Maine.
- Cuts *Rural Health Outreach* from \$39 million to \$11 million. These grants support rural hospitals, clinics, health departments and other providers in rural areas.
- Cuts overall funding for *mental health programs* at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by \$21 million or 2 percent below FY 2005.
- The bill includes no increase for *child immunization programs* other than the funds for flu vaccine. Since FY 2002, appropriations for *vaccine purchase* will have increased by only about 1.5 percent, while the cost of the full series of recommended childhood vaccines will have risen 38 percent (again, both figures exclude flu vaccine).
- Reduces *Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)*. The bill cuts LIHEAP by \$198 million (9 percent) below FY 2005, counting both basic formula grants and emergency grants. LIHEAP serves about 5 million households, the majority of which have at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a child under age five.
- *Cuts the Education Technology Program from \$496 million in FY 2005 to \$300 million in FY 2006*. This reduction is on top of a \$196 million cut in FY 2005. One in four states have no other dedicated technology funds to track NCLB student achievement data, improve teachers' use of technology, and close the achievement gap through online learning.
- *Eliminates Comprehensive School Reform grants for 1,000 high-poverty schools*. The LHHS bill would terminate continuation grants to 1,000 high-poverty schools using CSR funds to adopt proven reform models.
- *Shortchanges teacher training*. Teacher Quality State Grants are frozen marking the 3rd consecutive year that the program was either frozen or cut. Approximately 56,000 fewer teachers will receive training promised under NCLB.
- *Math and Science Partnerships are cut 3 percent below the 2005 level* when Department of Education and NSF funding are taken into account. These funds are intended to strengthen math and science instruction, and thereby make American students more competitive in the global economy.

- ***Cuts funding for Safe and Drug Free Schools grants by \$37 million or 8.5 percent.*** Nearly all school districts – about 14,000 – rely on this Federal aid for school safety, emergency preparedness, drug prevention, and anti-violence activities.
- ***Freezes English language training and other key NCLB programs.*** This is the 3rd year in a row that the program will have been frozen or cut. More than 4.4 million students need to improve their ability to read and speak English. The bill also freezes other key NCLB programs, including Reading First, Early Reading First, State Assessments, and Rural Education.
- ***Freezes funding for the Title VI international programs at \$107 million,*** less than the 2003 level. Although the nation continues to face shortages of language experts after September 11th, the LHHS bill fails to make additional investments to boost the number of students learning languages spoken in the critical regions of Central and South Asia, Middle East, Indonesia, and Africa. The bill It also eliminates targeted funding for K-12 foreign language training.

Analysis prepared by the staff of U.S. Representative Tom Allen.